

to working with constituents, Joe is always thinking about how to make things better and what more we can do to make it happen. He consistently goes above and beyond to serve constituents and support his fellow staff. His work as the Academy Coordinator has impacted countless young applicants as they begin their careers in service to this nation. Joe's leadership is a shining example of what other District Directors should strive to be.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me to recognize Joe Schumacher for his selfless dedication to Virginia's First District. Joe is a crucial member of our team, and I am forever grateful for his service to our office and to Virginia's First District.

IN HONOR OF MARK OLBERT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding service of Mark Olbert as he departs the San Carlos City Council after nine years as a councilmember, two of them as Mayor. Mark also served 10 years on the local school board. For a man who moved to San Carlos in 1997, he's spent a remarkable 19 of those 23 years in local elected office.

Mark was raised in Dobbs Ferry, New York and obtained his bachelors in cell and molecular biology from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and his MBA from the Amos Tuck School at Dartmouth College. He went to work as a finance executive in the oil and gas industry and then transitioned to the world of biotechnology. After great success at Amgen, Mark moved to San Carlos to grab other brass rings in the world of biotechnology. Ultimately, he was able to retire early to dedicate his life to his family and to public service.

When he and his wife, Barbara McHugh, sought a Bay Area community in which to raise their family they selected San Carlos because of its high-quality schools. Both Mark and Barbara plunged into volunteering to raise money for the schools and were ultimately honored for their leadership by the San Carlos Education Foundation.

In the midst of his career, and while raising Arthur and Caroline, the couple's two children, Mark ran for the school board. He succeeded in his first effort and was reelected. During his 10 years as a trustee, he successfully advocated to reform the district's special education program and grappled with the fragile finances of the district. For decades, civic leaders had opined that, in San Carlos, school parcel taxes and bond measures would fail. As a trustee, Mark had a different opinion. He and a core group led successful efforts to pass several tax or bond measures, thereby stabilizing finances and putting the district on a path to rejuvenate its schools.

While on the school board, it was his work with the city that sparked his interest in the city council. He saw a need for more parks for a growing population, more housing, and greater transparency in local government. He ran for the city council in 2011, came in first, and was later re-elected.

Mark and most of his council colleagues tried but were ultimately unable to obtain more

land to expand city parks. He always maintained, however, that the city council had done its job by providing residents with a choice about their quality of life.

In recent years, he successfully advocated for San Carlos to become a "welcoming city" to send a message of hope as immigrants came under attack. Homeowners have a friend in Mark as the city adopted a proposal to help pay for otherwise expensive sidewalk repairs. Along with his colleagues, he regularly supported thoughtful budgeting that generated surpluses.

Housing is Mark's constant concern. He asks important questions about whether the city has zoned enough land for housing in order to avoid the displacement of vulnerable residents as commercial development accelerates. He is passionate about equal economic opportunity and the need to find affordable housing for teachers, public safety personnel, store clerks, and all others who struggle to pay high rents in San Carlos.

Mark started a blog when he joined the school board and continued as a councilmember. Recent council topics on his site, "Making Your Mark," include: "Reflections: Paranoia, Tribalism, Politics"; and, "Even in the City of Good Living, Racism is Not Patriotism!" His retirement may spare the public from another blog rumored to be in the works: "Quantum Theory and Time Travel: New Adventures in Parenting During A Pandemic." His blog's style is a blend of The New York Times Magazine, Scientific American, and Mad Magazine.

Mark Olbert is honest, thoughtful, and dogged in asking questions and getting answers. He seeks the long-term welfare of the entire community. He is brilliant and has a wonderful sense of humor. While "public servant" is a title that others may view as pedestrian, he treasures it as much as a rare gem. It has been my great honor and privilege to serve with Mark Olbert. He represents the best in public service. I will miss him on the council. Let me invoke an amended phrase from a renowned science fiction philosopher, Yoda: Mark, May the Force of Public Opinion Always Be With You.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY J. PALMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2020

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House and missed votes on 12/20 through 12/4/20 while recovering from COVID-19. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 228; NAY on Roll Call No. 230; NAY on Roll Call No. 231; NAY on Roll Call No. 232; NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT AND DINGELL-JOHNSON SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EQUALITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act District of Columbia Equality Act, which would amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act to make the District of Columbia eligible for the same federal funding as states under these Acts. The District is treated as a state under federal programs, with a few exceptions, most of them simply oversights or failures to update post-home rule.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act provides funding, derived from excise taxes on sporting equipment, for five distinct purposes: program administration, wildlife restoration, basic hunter education and safety, enhanced hunter education and safety grants and multistate conservation grants. The District does not receive any funding under this Act. The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act provides funding for sport fish restoration, aquatic education, wetlands restoration and boat-related activities. Under this Act, states receive a minimum of one percent of the total amount apportioned, while the District is capped at one-third of one percent.

This omission and lack of parity under these Acts have serious consequences for the District. The District has roughly 7,800 acres of parkland covering nearly a quarter of the city, which means it has more parkland per capita than any other city in the United States. This bill would define "State" in these Acts to include the District, providing the District with equitable access to valuable financial resources for wildlife conservation in our nation's capital.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

ARIZONA VOICE FOR CRIME
VICTIMS (AVCV)

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, Arizona, a national leader in crime victims' rights, reached a milestone on November 26, 2020—30 years since the enactment of the Victims' Bill of Rights (VBR), as art. II §2.1, of the state constitution. The passage of the VBR was an immense achievement in the face of strong opposition. The movement was led by numerous crime victims, grassroots organizations, and prosecutors throughout the state. Prior to this achievement, there had been two unsuccessful attempts to get a victims' rights amendment referred by the Arizona Legislature. Strong opposition came from defense attorneys and, astonishingly, judicial officers.